

Curtis J. Keltner

History Graduate Teaching Assistant
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PROFESSIONAL BIO

Curtis J. Keltner is a PhD student in History at Texas A&M University, and currently serves as a Graduate Teaching Assistant.

In May 2021, Curtis earned his Master's degree from Texas A&M University-Central Texas, graduating at the top of his class as the Distinguished Graduate. Curtis's Master's thesis, titled *We-Ta-Se: The Warrior Spirit of the Potawatomi Tribe and the American Identity* explores the Potawatomi tribe's assimilation into American culture.

Curtis retired from the United States Army in November 2019, after a twenty-one-year career. He is ¼ Native American and an enrolled member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi tribe in Mayetta, Kansas. During his time in the Army he served as a Logistics Specialist, Airborne Infantryman, and Special Forces Weapons Sergeant. Curtis has two combat deployments to Iraq - notably he was a member of Operation Red Dawn which caught deposed Iraqi president Saddam Hussein in December 2003. Curtis has trained foreign armies in Cambodia and Egypt, and has traveled extensively throughout Asia, Europe, and the Middle East in support of world-wide combat operations. Curtis is a subject matter expert in unconventional warfare, small unit infantry tactics, counterterrorism, foreign internal defense, and he has a working knowledge of Indonesian, German, and Spanish.

TRIBAL AFFILIATION

Prairie Band Potawatomi

CURRENT POSITION

Texas A&M University

Graduate Teaching Assistant - August 2021-December 2021

FORMER POSITIONS

Texas A&M University-Central Texas

Graduate Research Assistant - January 2021-May 2021

Graduate Research Assistant - August 2020-December 2020

Graduate Research Assistant - January 2020-May 2020

SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

Lechner Graduate Grant Award, 2021

TAMUCT 2020-2021 Outstanding Graduate Student in History

TAMUCT 2019-2020 Outstanding Graduate Student in History

Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Graduate Scholarship, 2019-2020

Vietnam Study Abroad Scholarship, 2019

2017 Division West Best Warrior

Military Outstanding Volunteer Medal

Meritorious Service Medal

Special Forces Tab

Combat Infantry Badge

CONFERENCES & INVITED PRESENTATIONS

"Napoleon to New Spain: How France began the Mexican War of Independence," *European Studies Conference*, University of Nebraska at Omaha, October 2, 2020.

"Prophetic Traditions: The Tenskwatawa Witch Hunts," *World History Association of Texas Annual Conference*, Texas A&M University-Commerce, March 20, 2021.

"Potawatomi, Ottawa, and Ojibwa Soldiers: The Three Fires Confederation in the Civil War," *James A. Barnes Graduate Research Conference*, Temple University, April 10, 2021.

"An American Identity: Why the Potawatomi Chose to Fight for the Union Army in the Civil War," *Society for Military History Conference*, Norfolk, Virginia, 20 May, 2021.

PROFESSIONAL & SOCIAL AFFILIATIONS

American Historical Association

Knights of Columbus

National Infantry Association

Native American and Indigenous Studies Association

Order of Saint Maurice

Phi Alpha Theta Honor Society

Society for Military History

The National Society of Leadership and Success

Veterans of Foreign Wars

PUBLICATIONS

“Napoleon to New Spain: How France began the Mexican War of Independence,” in *Proceedings of the European Studies Conference, University of Nebraska at Omaha, 2020*, ed. Juliette Parnell, (Summer, 2020), 1-29.

REVIEWS

Review of *Christian Imperialism: Converting the World in the Early American Republic*. By Emily Conroy-Krutz. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2018. For *Global Politics Review*, April 2020.

EDUCATION

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

College Station, Texas (In Progress, August 2021-Present)

PhD, History, with a concentration on Native American History

Chair: Dr. Angela Hudson

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-CENTRAL TEXAS

Killeen, Texas (2021, Distinguished Graduate)

MA, History, with a concentration on the Potawatomi Nation

Thesis: *We-Ta-Se: The Warrior Spirit of the Potawatomi Tribe and the American Identity*

Chair: Dr. Timothy Hemmis

AMERICAN PUBLIC UNIVERSITY

Charles Town, West Virginia (2019, Cum Laude)

BS, History, American History

Thesis: *Davy Crockett and the Trail of Tears*

CENTRAL TEXAS COLLEGE

Killeen, Texas (2012)

AA, General Studies

PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

Dr. Luke A. Nichter, Ph.D.

Professor of History

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Dr. Timothy Hemmis, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of History

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